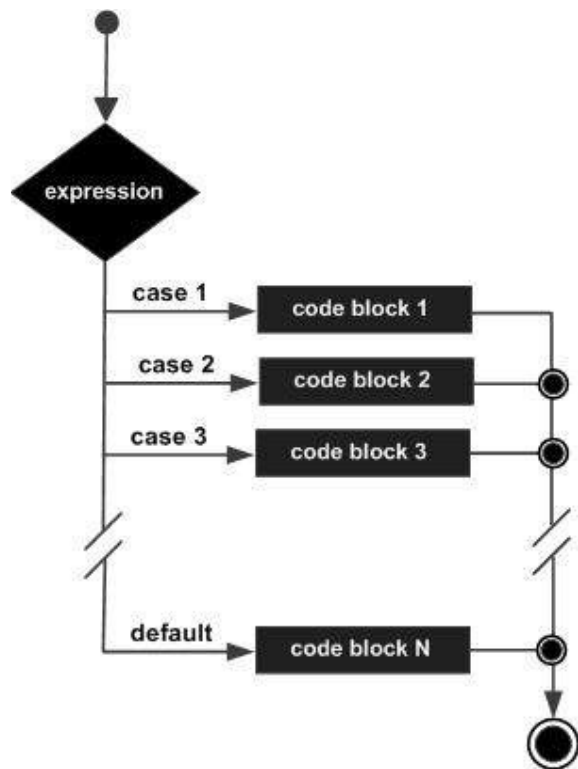**JavaScript - Switch Case**

You can use multiple **if...else...if** statements, as in the previous chapter, to perform a multiway branch. However, this is not always the best solution, especially when all of the branches depend on the value of a single variable.

Starting with JavaScript 1.2, you can use a **switch** statement which handles exactly this situation, and it does so more efficiently than repeated **if...else if** statements.

Flow Chart

The following flow chart explains a switch-case statement works.

Syntax

The objective of a **switch** statement is to give an expression to evaluate and several different statements to execute based on the value of the expression. The interpreter checks each **case** against the value of the expression until a match is found. If nothing matches, a **default** condition will be used.

```
switch (expression) {
    case condition 1: statement(s)
    break;

    case condition 2: statement(s)
    break;
    ...

    case condition n: statement(s)
```

```
      break;

   default: statement(s)
}
```

The **break** statements indicate the end of a particular case. If they were omitted, the interpreter would continue executing each statement in each of the following cases.

We will explain **break** statement in **Loop Control** chapter.

Example

Try the following example to implement switch-case statement.

```html
<html>
  <body>
    <script type = "text/javascript">
      <!--
        var grade = 'A';
        document.write("Entering switch block<br />");
        switch (grade) {
          case 'A': document.write("Good job<br />");
          break;

          case 'B': document.write("Pretty good<br />");
          break;

          case 'C': document.write("Passed<br />");
          break;

          case 'D': document.write("Not so good<br />");
          break;

          case 'F': document.write("Failed<br />");
          break;

          default:  document.write("Unknown grade<br />")
        }
        document.write("Exiting switch block");
      //-->
    </script>
    <p>Set the variable to different value and then try...</p>
  </body>
</html>
```

Output

Entering switch block
Good job
Exiting switch block
Set the variable to different value and then try...

Break statements play a major role in switch-case statements. Try the following code that uses switch-case statement without any break statement.

```html
<html>
  <body>
    <script type = "text/javascript">
      <!--
        var grade = 'A';
        document.write("Entering switch block<br />");
        switch (grade) {
          case 'A': document.write("Good job<br />");
          case 'B': document.write("Pretty good<br />");
          case 'C': document.write("Passed<br />");
          case 'D': document.write("Not so good<br />");
          case 'F': document.write("Failed<br />");
          default: document.write("Unknown grade<br />")
        }
        document.write("Exiting switch block");
      //-->
    </script>
    <p>Set the variable to different value and then try...</p>
  </body>
</html>
```

Output

Entering switch block
Good job
Pretty good
Passed
Not so good
Failed
Unknown grade
Exiting switch block
Set the variable to different value and then try...